

# ANALYSIS OF A DYNAMIC THERMO-ELASTIC-VISCOPLASTIC CONTACT PROBLEM

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**ABSTRACT.** We consider a dynamic frictionless contact problem for thermo-elastic-viscoplastic materials with damage and adhesion. The contact is modeled with normal compliance condition. We derive a weak formulation of the system, then we prove existence and uniqueness of the solution. The proof is based on arguments of monotonicity and fixed point.

**Keywords:** dynamic process; damage field; adhesion field; temperature; thermo-elastic-viscoplastic; variational inequality; fixed-point.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Situations of contact between deformable bodies are very common in the industry and everyday life. Contact of braking pads with wheels, tires with roads, pistons with skirts or the complex metal forming processes are just a few examples. The constitutive laws with internal variables has been used in various publications in order to model the effect of internal variables in the behavior of real bodies like metal and rocks polymers. Some of the internal state variables considered by many authors are the spatial display of dislocation, the work-hardening of materials, the absolute temperature and the damage field. See for examples [6, 26, 27, 28, 29, 35, 36] for the case of hardening, temperature and other internal state variables and the references [18, 20, 27] for the case of damage field and the adhesion field which is denoted in this paper by  $\beta$ . It describes the pointwise fractional density of active bonds on the contact surface, and sometimes referred to as the intensity of adhesion. Following [15, 16], the bonding field satisfies the restrictions  $0 \leq \beta \leq 1$ . When  $\beta = 1$  at a point of the contact surface, the adhesion is complete and all the bonds are active. When  $\beta = 0$  all the bonds are inactive, severed, and there is no adhesion. When  $0 < \beta < 1$  the adhesion is partial and only a fraction  $\beta$  of the bonds is active. We refer the reader to the extensive bibliography on the subject in [31, 33, 34].

In this paper we deal with the study of a dynamic problem of frictionless adhesive contact for general thermo-elastic-viscoplastic materials. For this, we consider a rate-type constitutive equation with two internal variables of the form

$$\sigma(t) = \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(t))) + \mathcal{E}(\varepsilon(u(t))) + \int_0^t \mathcal{G}(\sigma(s) - \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(s))), \varepsilon(u(s)), \theta(s), \varsigma(s)) ds, \quad (1.1)$$

in which  $u$ ,  $\sigma$  represent, respectively, the displacement field and the stress field where the dot above denotes the derivative with respect to the time variable,  $\theta$  represents the absolute temperature,  $\varsigma$  is the damage field,  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  are nonlinear operators describing the purely viscous and the elastic properties of the material, respectively, and  $\mathcal{G}$  is a nonlinear constitutive function which describes the visco-plastic behavior of the material. It follows from (1.1) that at each time moment, the stress tensor  $\sigma(t)$  is split into two parts:  $\sigma(t) = \sigma^V(t) + \sigma^R(t)$ , where  $\sigma^V(t) = \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(t)))$  represents the

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purely viscous part of the stress, whereas  $\sigma^R(t)$  satisfies a rate-type elastic-viscoplastic relation with absolute temperature and damage

$$\sigma^R(t) = \mathcal{E}(\varepsilon(u(t))) + \int_0^t \mathcal{G}(\sigma^R(s), \varepsilon(u(s)), \theta(s), \varsigma(s)) ds. \quad (1.2)$$

When  $\mathcal{G} = 0$  in (1.1) reduces to the Kelvin–Voigt viscoelastic constitutive law given by

$$\sigma(t) = \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(t))) + \mathcal{E}(\varepsilon(u(t))). \quad (1.3)$$

The damage is an extremely important topic in engineering, since it affects directly the useful life of the designed structure or component. There exists a very large engineering literature on it. Models taking into account the influence of the internal damage of the material on the contact process have been investigated mathematically. General models for damage were derived in [17, 18] from the virtual power principle. Mathematical analysis of one-dimensional problems can be found in [19]. In all these papers the damage of the material is described with a damage function  $\varsigma$ , restricted to have values between zero and one. When  $\varsigma = 1$  there is no damage in the material, when  $\varsigma = 0$  the material is completely damaged, when  $0 < \varsigma < 1$  there is partial damage and the system has a reduced load carrying capacity. In this paper the inclusion used for the evolution of the damage field is

$$\rho \dot{\varsigma} - k_1 \Delta \varsigma + \partial_K \varphi(\varsigma) \ni \phi(\sigma - \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(s))), \varepsilon(u), \theta, \varsigma)$$

where  $K$  denotes the set of admissible damage functions defined by

$$K = \{\xi \in V : 0 \leq \xi(x) \leq 1 \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega\},$$

$k_1$  is a positive coefficient,  $\partial_K \varphi(\varsigma)$  represents the subdifferential of the indicator function of the set  $K$  and  $\phi$  is a given constitutive function which describes the sources of the damage in the system. Examples and mechanical interpretation of elastic-viscoplastic can be found in [12, 21]. Dynamic and quasistatic contact problems are the topic of numerous papers, e.g. [1, 2, 4, 11, 14, 32]. More recently in [5], we study an electro-elastic-visco-plastic frictionless contact problem with damage and adhesion. The mathematical problem modelled the quasi-static evolution of damage in thermo-viscoplastic materials has been studied in [27].

We model the material's behavior with an elastic-viscoplastic constitutive law with damage. We derive a variational formulation of the problem and prove the existence of a unique weak solution. The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we present the mechanical problem of the dynamic evolution of damage and adhesion in thermo-elastic-viscoplastic materials. We introduce some notations and preliminaries and we derive the variational formulation of the problem. We prove in Section 3 the existence and uniqueness of the solution.

## 2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  ( $n = 2, 3$ ) be a bounded domain with a Lipschitz boundary  $\Gamma$ , partitioned into three disjoint measurable parts  $\Gamma_1$ ,  $\Gamma_2$  and  $\Gamma_3$  such that  $\text{meas}(\Gamma_1) > 0$ . We denote by  $\mathbb{S}_n$  the space of symmetric tensors on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . We define the inner product and the Euclidean norm on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\mathbb{S}_n$ , respectively, by

$$\begin{aligned} u \cdot v &= u_i v_i \quad \forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \sigma \cdot \tau = \sigma_{ij} \tau_{ij} \quad \forall \sigma, \tau \in \mathbb{S}_n, \\ |u| &= (u \cdot u)^{1/2} \quad \forall u \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad |\sigma| = (\sigma \cdot \sigma)^{1/2} \quad \forall \sigma \in \mathbb{S}_n. \end{aligned}$$

Here and below, the indices  $i$  and  $j$  run from 1 to  $n$  and the summation convention over repeated indices is used. We shall use the notation

$$\begin{aligned} H &= L^2(\Omega)^n = \{u = \{u_i\} : u_i \in L^2(\Omega)\}, \\ \mathcal{H} &= \{\sigma = \{\sigma_{ij}\} : \sigma_{ij} = \sigma_{ji} \in L^2(\Omega)\}, \\ H_1 &= \{u \in H : \varepsilon(u) \in \mathcal{H}\}, \\ \mathcal{H}_1 &= \{\sigma \in \mathcal{H} : \text{Div}(\sigma) \in H\}, \\ V &= H^1(\Omega). \end{aligned}$$

Here  $\varepsilon : H_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  and  $\text{Div} : \mathcal{H}_1 \rightarrow H$  are the deformation and divergence operators, respectively, defined by

$$\varepsilon(u) = (\varepsilon_{ij}(u)), \quad \varepsilon_{ij}(u) = \frac{1}{2}(u_{i,j} + u_{j,i}), \quad \text{Div}(\sigma) = (\sigma_{ij,j}).$$

The sets  $H$ ,  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $H_1$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_1$  and  $V$  are real Hilbert spaces endowed with the canonical inner products:

$$\begin{aligned} (u, v)_H &= \int_{\Omega} u_i v_i dx, \quad (\sigma, \tau)_{\mathcal{H}} = \int_{\Omega} \sigma_{ij} \tau_{ij} dx, \\ (u, v)_{H_1} &= (u, v)_H + (\varepsilon(u), \varepsilon(v))_{\mathcal{H}}, \\ (\sigma, \tau)_{\mathcal{H}_1} &= (\sigma, \tau)_{\mathcal{H}} + (\text{Div}(\sigma), \text{Div}(\tau))_H, \\ (f, g)_V &= (f, g)_{L^2(\Omega)} + (f_{x_i}, g_{x_i})_{L^2(\Omega)}. \end{aligned}$$

The associated norms are denoted by  $\|\cdot\|_H$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{H}}$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_{H_1}$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{H}_1}$  and  $\|\cdot\|_V$ . Since the boundary  $\Gamma$  is Lipschitz continuous, the unit outward normal vector field  $\nu$  on the boundary is defined a.e. For every vector field  $v \in H_1$  we denote by  $v_{\nu}$  and  $v_{\tau}$  the normal and tangential components of  $v$  on the boundary given by

$$v_{\nu} = v \cdot \nu, \quad v_{\tau} = v - v_{\nu} \nu.$$

Let  $H_{\Gamma} = (H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n$  and  $\gamma : H_1 \rightarrow H_{\Gamma}$  be the trace map. We denote by  $\mathcal{V}$  the closed subspace of  $H_1$  defined by

$$\mathcal{V} = \{v \in H_1 : \gamma v = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_1\}.$$

We also denote by  $H'_{\Gamma}$  the dual of  $H_{\Gamma}$ . Moreover, since  $\text{meas}(\Gamma_1) > 0$ , Korn's inequality holds and thus, there exists a positive constant  $C_0$  depending only on  $\Omega$ ,  $\Gamma_1$  such that

$$\|\varepsilon(v)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \geq C_0 \|v\|_{H_1} \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{V}.$$

On the space  $\mathcal{V}$  we consider the inner product given by

$$(u, v)_{\mathcal{V}} = (\varepsilon(u), \varepsilon(v))_{\mathcal{H}},$$

and let  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{V}}$  be the associated norm, defined by

$$\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}} = \|\varepsilon(v)\|_{\mathcal{H}}. \quad (2.1)$$

It follows from Korn's inequality that  $\|\cdot\|_{H_1}$  and  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{V}}$  are equivalent norms on  $\mathcal{V}$ . Therefore  $(\mathcal{V}, |\cdot|_{\mathcal{V}})$  is a real Hilbert space. Moreover, by the Sobolev trace theorem there exists a positive constant  $C_0$  which depends only on  $\Omega$ ,  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_3$  such that

$$\|v\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)^n} \leq C_0 \|v\|_{\mathcal{V}} \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{V}. \quad (2.2)$$

Furthermore, if  $\sigma \in \mathcal{H}_1$  there exists an element  $\sigma\nu \in H'_{\Gamma}$  such that the following Green formula holds

$$(\sigma, \varepsilon(v))_{\mathcal{H}} + (\text{Div}(\sigma), v)_H = (\sigma\nu, \gamma v)_{H'_{\Gamma} \times H_{\Gamma}} \quad \forall v \in H_1.$$

In addition, if  $\sigma$  is sufficiently regular (say  $\mathcal{C}^1$ ), then

$$(\sigma, \varepsilon(v))_{\mathcal{H}} + (\text{Div}(\sigma), v)_H = \int_{\Gamma} \sigma \nu \cdot \gamma v d\Gamma \quad \forall v \in H_1, \quad (2.3)$$

where  $d\Gamma$  denotes the surface element. Similarly, for a regular tensor field  $\sigma : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{S}_n$  we define its normal and tangential components on the boundary by

$$\sigma_\nu = \sigma \nu \cdot \nu, \quad \sigma_\tau = \sigma \nu - \sigma_\nu \nu.$$

Moreover, we denote by  $\mathcal{V}'$  and  $V'$  the dual of the spaces  $\mathcal{V}$  and  $V$ , respectively. Identifying  $H$ , respectively  $L^2(\Omega)$ , with its own dual, we have the inclusions

$$\mathcal{V} \subset H \subset \mathcal{V}', \quad V \subset L^2(\Omega) \subset V'.$$

We use the notation  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{V}' \times \mathcal{V}}$ ,  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{V' \times V}$  to represent the duality pairing between  $\mathcal{V}'$ ,  $\mathcal{V}$  and  $V'$ ,  $V$ , respectively. Let  $T > 0$ . For every real space  $X$ , we use the notation  $C(0, T; X)$ , and  $C^1(0, T; X)$  for the space of continuous and continuously differentiable functions from  $[0, T]$  to  $X$  respectively,  $C(0, T; X)$  is a real Banach space with the norm

$$|f|_{C(0, T; X)} = \max_{t \in [0, T]} |f(t)|_X.$$

While  $C^1(0, T; X)$  is a real Banach space with the norm

$$|f|_{C^1(0, T; X)} = \max_{t \in [0, T]} |f(t)|_X + \max_{t \in [0, T]} |\dot{f}(t)|_X.$$

Finally, for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $p \in [1, \infty]$ , we use the standard notation for the Lebesgue space  $L^p(0, T; X)$  and for the Sobolev spaces  $W^{k, p}(0, T; X)$ . Moreover, for a real number  $r$ , we use  $r_+$  to represent its positive part that is  $r_+ = \max(0, r)$ , and if  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are real Hilbert spaces, then  $X_1 \times X_2$  denotes the product Hilbert space endowed with the canonical inner product  $(\cdot, \cdot)_{X_1 \times X_2}$ .

The physical setting is the following. A body occupies the domain  $\Omega$ , and is clamped on  $\Gamma_1$  and so the displacement field vanishes there. Surface tractions of density  $f_0$  act on  $\Gamma_2 \times (0, T)$  and a volume force of density  $f$  is applied in  $\Omega \times (0, T)$ . We assume that the body is in adhesive frictionless contact with an obstacle, the so-called foundation, over the potential contact surface  $\Gamma_3$ . We admit a possible external heat source applied in  $\Omega \times (0, T)$ , given by the function  $q$ . Moreover, the process is dynamic, and thus the inertial terms are included in the equation of motion. We use an elastic-viscoplastic constitutive law with damage to model the material's behaviour and an ordinary differential equation to describe the evolution of the adhesion field.

The mechanical formulation of the frictionless problem with normal compliance is as follow.

**Problem P.** Find the displacement field  $u : \Omega \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ , the stress field  $\sigma : \Omega \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{S}_n$ , the temperature  $\theta : \Omega \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , the damage field  $\varsigma : \Omega \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and the adhesion field  $\beta : \Omega \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\sigma(t) = \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(t))) + \mathcal{E}(\varepsilon(u(t))) + \int_0^t \mathcal{G}(\sigma(s) - \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(s))), \varepsilon(u(s)), \theta(s), \varsigma(s)) ds \quad (2.4)$$

in  $\Omega$  a.e.  $t \in (0, T)$ ,

$$\rho \ddot{u} = \text{Div}(\sigma) + f \quad \text{in } \Omega \times (0, T), \quad (2.5)$$

$$\rho \dot{\theta} - k_0 \Delta \theta = \psi(\sigma - \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u})), \varepsilon(u), \theta, \varsigma) + q \quad \text{in } \Omega \times (0, T), \quad (2.6)$$

$$\rho \dot{\varsigma} - k_1 \Delta \varsigma + \partial_K \varphi(\varsigma) \ni \phi(\sigma - \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u})), \varepsilon(u), \theta, \varsigma) \quad \text{in } \Omega \times (0, T), \quad (2.7)$$

$$u = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma_1 \times (0, T), \quad (2.8)$$

$$\sigma \nu = f_0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma_2 \times (0, T), \quad (2.9)$$

$$-\sigma_\nu = p_\nu(u_\nu) - \gamma_\nu \beta^2 R_\nu(u_\nu) \quad \text{on } \Gamma_3 \times (0, T), \quad (2.10)$$

$$-\sigma_\tau = p_\tau(\beta) R_\tau(u_\tau) \quad \text{on } \Gamma_3 \times (0, T), \quad (2.11)$$

$$\dot{\beta} = -(\beta[\gamma_\nu(R_\nu(u_\nu))^2 + \gamma_\tau |R_\tau(u_\tau)|^2] - \varepsilon_a)_+ \quad \text{on } \Gamma_3 \times (0, T), \quad (2.12)$$

$$k_0 \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \nu} + \alpha \theta = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma \times (0, T), \quad (2.13)$$

$$\frac{\partial \varsigma}{\partial \nu} = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma \times (0, T), \quad (2.14)$$

$$u(0) = u_0, \quad \dot{u}(0) = w_0, \quad \theta(0) = \theta_0, \quad \varsigma(0) = \varsigma_0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (2.15)$$

$$\beta(0) = \beta_0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma_3. \quad (2.16)$$

This problem represents the dynamic evolution of damage and adhesion in thermo-elastic-viscoplastic materials. Equation (2.4) is the thermo-elastic-viscoplastic constitutive law where  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  are nonlinear operators describing the purely viscous and the elastic properties of the material, respectively, and  $\mathcal{G}$  is a nonlinear constitutive function which describes the viscoplastic behavior of the material. (2.5) represents the equation of motion in which the dot above denotes the derivative with respect to the time variable and  $\rho$  is the density of mass. Equation (2.6) represents the energy conservation where  $\psi$  is a nonlinear constitutive function which represents the heat generated by the work of internal forces and  $q$  is a given volume heat source. Inclusion (2.7) describes the evolution of damage field. Equalities (2.8) and (2.9) are the displacement-traction boundary conditions, respectively. Condition (2.10) represents the normal compliance condition with adhesion where  $\gamma_\nu$  is a given adhesion coefficient and  $p_\nu$  is a given positive function which will be described below. In this condition the interpenetrability between the body and the foundation is allowed, that is  $u_\nu$  can be positive on  $\Gamma_3$ . The contribution of the adhesive to the normal traction is represented by the term  $\gamma_\nu \beta^2 R_\nu(u_\nu)$  the adhesive traction is tensile and is proportional, with proportionality coefficient  $\gamma_\nu$ , to the square of the intensity of adhesion and to the normal displacement, but only as long as it does not exceed the bond length  $L$ . The maximal tensile traction is  $\gamma_\nu L$ .  $R_\nu$  is the truncation operator defined by

$$R_\nu(s) = \begin{cases} L & \text{if } s < -L, \\ -s & \text{if } -L \leq s \leq 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } s > 0. \end{cases}$$

Here  $L > 0$  is the characteristic length of the bond, beyond which it does not offer any additional traction. The contact condition (2.10) was used in various papers, see e.g. [9, 10, 34, 37]. Condition (2.11) represents the adhesive contact condition on the tangential plane, in which  $p_\tau$  is a given function and  $R_\tau$  is the truncation operator given by

$$R_\tau(v) = \begin{cases} v & \text{if } |v| \leq L, \\ L \frac{v}{|v|} & \text{if } |v| > L. \end{cases}$$

This condition shows that the shear on the contact surface depends on the adhesion field and on the tangential displacement, but only as long as it does not exceed the adhesion length  $L$ . The frictional tangential traction is assumed to be much smaller than the adhesive one, and therefore omitted. The introduction of the operator  $R_\nu$ , together with the operator  $R_\tau$  defined above, is motivated by mathematical arguments but it is not restrictive for physical point of view, since no restriction on the size of the parameter  $L$  is made in what follows.

Next, equation (2.12) represents the ordinary differential equation which describes the evolution of the adhesion field and it was already used in [9, 34], see also [33] for more details. Here, besides  $\gamma_\nu$ , two

new adhesion coefficients are involved,  $\gamma_\tau$  and  $\epsilon_a$ . Notice that in this model once debonding occurs, adhesion cannot be reestablished, since, as it follows from (2.12),  $\dot{\beta} \leq 0$ . (2.13) and (2.14) represent, respectively a Fourier boundary condition for the temperature and a homogeneous Neumann boundary condition for the damage field on  $\Gamma$ . Finally the functions  $u_0$ ,  $w_0$ ,  $\theta_0$  and  $\varsigma_0$  in (2.15) and  $\beta_0$  in (2.16) are the initial data. To obtain the variational formulation of the problem (2.4)–(2.16) we introduce for the adhesive field the set

$$\mathcal{Z} = \{\omega \in L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Gamma_3)) : 0 \leq \omega(t) \leq 1 \ \forall t \in [0, T], \text{ a.e. on } \Gamma_3\}.$$

In the study of the mechanical problem (P), we consider the following hypotheses. The viscosity operator  $\mathcal{A} : \Omega \times \mathbb{S}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{S}_n$  satisfies the following properties:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{(a)} & \text{There exists a constant } L_{\mathcal{A}} > 0 \text{ such that} \\ & |\mathcal{A}(x, \varepsilon_1) - \mathcal{A}(x, \varepsilon_2)| \leq L_{\mathcal{A}} |\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2| \text{ for all } \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2 \in \mathbb{S}_n, \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega. \\ \text{(b)} & \text{There exists a constant } m_{\mathcal{A}} \text{ such that} \\ & (\mathcal{A}(x, \varepsilon_1) - \mathcal{A}(x, \varepsilon_2)) \cdot (\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2) \geq m_{\mathcal{A}} |\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2|^2 \text{ for all } \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2 \in \mathbb{S}_n \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega. \\ \text{(c)} & \text{The mapping } x \mapsto \mathcal{A}(x, \varepsilon) \text{ is Lebesgue measurable on } \Omega \text{ for all } \varepsilon \in \mathbb{S}_n. \\ \text{(d)} & \text{The mapping } x \mapsto \mathcal{A}(x, 0) \in \mathcal{H}. \end{array} \right. \quad (2.17)$$

The elasticity operator  $\mathcal{E} : \Omega \times \mathbb{S}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{S}_n$  satisfies the following properties:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{(a)} & \text{There exists a constant } L_{\mathcal{E}} > 0 \text{ such that} \\ & |\mathcal{E}(x, \varepsilon_1) - \mathcal{E}(x, \varepsilon_2)| \leq L_{\mathcal{E}} |\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2| \text{ for all } \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2 \in \mathbb{S}_n, \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega. \\ \text{(b)} & \text{The mapping } x \mapsto \mathcal{E}(x, \varepsilon) \text{ is Lebesgue measurable on } \Omega \text{ for all } \varepsilon \in \mathbb{S}_n. \\ \text{(c)} & \text{The mapping } x \mapsto \mathcal{E}(x, 0) \in \mathcal{H}. \end{array} \right. \quad (2.18)$$

The viscoplasticity operator  $\mathcal{G} : \Omega \times \mathbb{S}_n \times \mathbb{S}_n \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}_n$  satisfies the following properties:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{(a)} & \text{There exists a constant } L_{\mathcal{G}} > 0 \text{ such that } |\mathcal{G}(x, \sigma_1, \varepsilon_1, \theta_1, \varsigma_1) - \\ & \mathcal{G}(x, \sigma_2, \varepsilon_2, \theta_2, \varsigma_2)| \leq L_{\mathcal{G}} (|\sigma_1 - \sigma_2| + |\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2| + |\theta_1 - \theta_2| + |\varsigma_1 - \varsigma_2|) \\ & \text{for all } \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \mathbb{S}_n, \text{ for all } \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2 \in \mathbb{S}_n \text{ for all } \theta_1, \theta_2 \in \mathbb{R}, \\ & \text{for all } \varsigma_1, \varsigma_2 \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega. \\ \text{(b)} & \text{The mapping } x \mapsto \mathcal{G}(x, \sigma, \varepsilon, \theta, \varsigma) \text{ is Lebesgue measurable on } \Omega \\ & \text{for all } \sigma, \varepsilon \in \mathbb{S}_n, \text{ for all } \theta, \varsigma \in \mathbb{R}. \\ \text{(c)} & \text{The mapping } x \mapsto \mathcal{G}(x, 0, 0, 0, 0) \in \mathcal{H}. \end{array} \right. \quad (2.19)$$

The nonlinear constitutive function  $\psi : \Omega \times \mathbb{S}_n \times \mathbb{S}_n \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies the following properties:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{(a)} & \text{There exists a constant } L_{\psi} > 0 \text{ such that } |\psi(x, \sigma_1, \varepsilon_1, \theta_1, \varsigma_1) - \\ & \psi(x, \sigma_2, \varepsilon_2, \theta_2, \varsigma_2)| \leq L_{\psi} (|\sigma_1 - \sigma_2| + |\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2| + |\theta_1 - \theta_2| + |\varsigma_1 - \varsigma_2|) \\ & \text{for all } \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \mathbb{S}_n, \text{ for all } \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2 \in \mathbb{S}_n, \text{ for all } \theta_1, \theta_2 \in \mathbb{R}, \\ & \text{for all } \varsigma_1, \varsigma_2 \in \mathbb{R} \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega. \\ \text{(b)} & \text{The mapping } x \mapsto \psi(x, \sigma, \varepsilon, \theta, \varsigma) \text{ is Lebesgue measurable on } \Omega \\ & \text{for all } \sigma, \varepsilon \in \mathbb{S}_n, \text{ for all } \theta, \varsigma \in \mathbb{R}. \\ \text{(c)} & \text{The mapping } x \mapsto \psi(x, 0, 0, 0, 0) \in L^2(\Omega). \end{array} \right. \quad (2.20)$$

The damage source function  $\phi : \Omega \times \mathbb{S}_n \times \mathbb{S}_n \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies the following properties:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{(a)} \quad \text{There exists a constant } L_\phi > 0 \text{ such that} \\ \quad |\phi(x, \sigma_1, \varepsilon_1, \theta_1, \varsigma_1) - \phi(x, \sigma_2, \varepsilon_2, \theta_2, \varsigma_2)| \leq L_\phi(|\sigma_1 - \sigma_2| + |\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2| \\ \quad + |\theta_1 - \theta_2| + |\varsigma_1 - \varsigma_2|) \text{ for all } \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \mathbb{S}_n, \text{ for all } \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2 \in \mathbb{S}_n, \\ \quad \text{for all } \theta_1, \theta_2 \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ for all } \varsigma_1, \varsigma_2 \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega. \\ \text{(b)} \quad \text{The mapping } x \mapsto \phi(x, \sigma, \varepsilon, \theta, \varsigma) \text{ is Lebesgue measurable on } \Omega \\ \quad \text{for all } \sigma, \varepsilon \in \mathbb{S}_n, \text{ for all } \theta, \varsigma \in \mathbb{R}. \\ \text{(c)} \quad \text{The mapping } x \mapsto \phi(x, 0, 0, 0, 0) \in L^2(\Omega). \end{array} \right. \quad (2.21)$$

The normal compliance function  $p_\nu : \Gamma_3 \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  satisfies:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{(a)} \quad \text{There exists a constant } L_\nu > 0 \text{ such that} \\ \quad |p_\nu(x, r_1) - p_\nu(x, r_2)| \leq L_\nu |r_1 - r_2| \quad \forall r_1, r_2 \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ a.e. } x \in \Gamma_3. \\ \text{(b)} \quad \text{The mapping } x \mapsto p_\nu(x, r) \text{ is measurable on } \Gamma_3, \quad \forall r \in \mathbb{R}. \\ \text{(c)} \quad \text{The mapping } x \mapsto p_\nu(x, r) = 0 \text{ for any } r \leq 0, \text{ a.e. } x \in \Gamma_3. \end{array} \right. \quad (2.22)$$

The tangential contact function  $p_\tau : \Gamma_3 \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  satisfies:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{(a)} \quad \text{There exists a constant } L_\tau > 0 \text{ such that} \\ \quad \|p_\tau(x, d_1) - p_\tau(x, d_2)\| \leq L_\tau |d_1 - d_2| \quad \forall d_1, d_2 \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ a.e. } x \in \Gamma_3, \\ \text{(b)} \quad \text{There exists a constant } M_\tau > 0 \text{ such that} \\ \quad |p_\tau(x, d)| \leq M_\tau \quad \forall d \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ a.e. } x \in \Gamma_3. \\ \text{(c)} \quad \text{The mapping } x \mapsto p_\tau(x, d) \text{ is measurable on } \Gamma_3, \quad \forall d \in \mathbb{R}. \\ \text{(d)} \quad \text{The mapping } x \mapsto p_\tau(x, 0) \in L^2(\Gamma_3). \end{array} \right. \quad (2.23)$$

The mass density satisfies:

$$\rho \in L^\infty(\Omega), \text{ there exists } \rho^* > 0 \text{ such that } \rho \geq \rho^* \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega. \quad (2.24)$$

The adhesion coefficient and the limit bound satisfy:

$$\gamma_\nu, \gamma_\tau \in L^\infty(\Gamma_3), \quad \epsilon_a \in L^2(\Gamma_3), \quad \gamma_\nu, \gamma_\tau, \epsilon_a \geq 0. \quad (2.25)$$

The body forces, surface tractions and the volume heat source have the regularity

$$f \in L^2(0, T; H), \quad f_0 \in L^2(0, T; L^2(\Gamma_2)^n), \quad q \in L^2(0, T; L^2(\Omega)), \quad (2.26)$$

$$u_0 \in \mathcal{V}, \quad w_0 \in H, \quad \theta_0 \in V, \quad \varsigma_0 \in K, \quad (2.27)$$

$$\beta_0 \in L^2(\Gamma_3), \quad 0 \leq \beta_0 \leq 1, \quad \text{a.e. on } \Gamma_3, \quad (2.28)$$

$$k_i > 0, \quad i = 0, 1. \quad (2.29)$$

We denote by  $F(t) \in \mathcal{V}'$  the following element

$$\langle F(t), v \rangle_{\mathcal{V}' \times \mathcal{V}} = (f(t), v)_H + (f_0(t), \gamma v)_{L^2(\Gamma_2)^n} \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{V}, \quad t \in (0, T). \quad (2.30)$$

The use of (2.26) permits to verify that

$$F \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{V}'). \quad (2.31)$$

We introduce the following continuous functionals

$$\mathbf{a}_0 : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \mathbf{a}_0(\zeta, \xi) = k_0 \int_\Omega \nabla \zeta \cdot \nabla \xi dx + \alpha \int_\Gamma \zeta \xi d\Gamma, \quad (2.32)$$

$$\mathbf{a}_1 : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \mathbf{a}_1(\zeta, \xi) = k_1 \int_\Omega \nabla \zeta \cdot \nabla \xi dx. \quad (2.33)$$

Finally, we consider the adhesion functional  $j : L^\infty(\Gamma_3) \times \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by

$$j(\beta, u, v) = \int_{\Gamma_3} p_\nu(u_\nu) v_\nu da + \int_{\Gamma_3} (-\gamma_\nu \beta^2 R_\nu(u_\nu) v_\nu + p_\tau(\beta) R_\tau(u_\tau) \cdot v_\tau) da. \quad (2.34)$$

Keeping in mind (2.22) and (2.23), we observe that integrals in (2.34) are well defined. Using standard arguments based on Green's formula (2.3), we can derive the following variational formulation of the frictionless problem with normal compliance (2.4)–(2.16) as follows.

**Problem PV.** Find the displacement field  $u : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ , the stress field  $\sigma : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{S}_n$ , the temperature  $\theta : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , the damage field  $\varsigma : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and the adhesion field  $\beta : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\sigma(t) = \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(t))) + \mathcal{E}(\varepsilon(u(t))) + \int_0^t \mathcal{G}(\sigma(s) - \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(s))), \varepsilon(u(s)), \theta(s), \varsigma(s)) ds \quad (2.35)$$

a.e.  $t \in (0, T)$ ,

$$\langle \rho \ddot{u}(t), v \rangle_{\mathcal{V}' \times \mathcal{V}} + (\sigma(t), \varepsilon(v))_{\mathcal{H}} + j(\beta(t), u(t), v) = \langle F(t), v \rangle_{\mathcal{V}' \times \mathcal{V}} \quad (2.36)$$

$\forall v \in \mathcal{V}$ , a.e.  $t \in (0, T)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \rho \dot{\theta}(t), \omega \rangle_{V' \times V} + \mathfrak{a}_0(\theta(t), \omega) \\ &= \langle \psi(\sigma(t) - \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(t))), \varepsilon(u(t)), \theta(t), \varsigma(t)), \omega \rangle_{V' \times V} + (q(t), \omega)_{L^2(\Omega)} \end{aligned} \quad (2.37)$$

$\forall \omega \in V$ , a.e.  $t \in (0, T)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \rho \dot{\varsigma}(t), \xi - \varsigma(t) \rangle_{V' \times V} + \mathfrak{a}_1(\varsigma(t), \xi - \varsigma(t)) \\ & \geq \langle \phi(\sigma(t) - \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(t))), \varepsilon(u(t)), \theta(t), \varsigma(t)), \xi - \varsigma(t) \rangle_{V' \times V} \end{aligned} \quad (2.38)$$

$\forall \xi \in K$ , a.e.  $t \in (0, T)$ ,  $\varsigma(t) \in K$ ,

$$\dot{\beta}(t) = -(\beta(t) [\gamma_\nu (R_\nu(u_\nu(t)))^2 + \gamma_\tau |R_\tau(u_\tau(t))|^2] - \varepsilon_a)_+ \quad (2.39)$$

a.e.  $t \in (0, T)$ ,

$$u(0) = u_0, \quad \dot{u}(0) = w_0, \quad \theta(0) = \theta_0, \quad \varsigma(0) = \varsigma_0, \quad \beta(0) = \beta_0. \quad (2.40)$$

### 3. MAIN RESULTS

The existence of the unique solution to Problem PV is proved in the next section. To this end, we consider the following remark which is used in different places of the paper.

**Remark 3.1.** We note that, in Problem P and in Problem PV, we do not need to impose explicitly the restriction  $0 \leq \beta \leq 1$ . Indeed, (2.39) guarantees that  $\beta(x, t) \leq \beta_0(x)$  and, therefore, assumption (2.28) shows that  $\beta(x, t) \leq 1$  for  $t \geq 0$ , a.e.  $x \in \Gamma_3$ .

On the other hand, if  $\beta(x, t_0) = 0$  at time  $t_0$ , then it follows from (2.39) that  $\beta(x, t) = \beta_0(x)$  for all  $t \geq t_0$ , and therefore  $\beta(x, t) = 0$  for all  $t \geq t_0$ ,  $x \in \Gamma_3$ .

We conclude that  $0 \leq \beta(x, t) \leq 1$  for all  $t \geq t_0$ ,  $x \in \Gamma_3$ .

**Theorem 3.2** (Existence and uniqueness). *Under assumptions (2.17)–(2.29), there exists a unique solution  $\{u, \sigma, \theta, \varsigma, \beta\}$  to problem PV. Moreover, the solution has the regularity*

$$u \in \mathcal{C}^0(0, T; \mathcal{V}) \cap \mathcal{C}^1(0, T; H), \quad (3.1)$$

$$\dot{u} \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{V}), \quad (3.2)$$

$$\ddot{u} \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{V}'), \quad (3.3)$$



$$\sigma \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{H}), \quad (3.4)$$

$$\theta \in L^2(0, T; V) \cap \mathcal{C}^0(0, T; L^2(\Omega)), \quad (3.5)$$

$$\dot{\theta} \in L^2(0, T; V'), \quad (3.6)$$

$$\varsigma \in L^2(0, T; V) \cap \mathcal{C}^0(0, T; L^2(\Omega)), \quad (3.7)$$

$$\dot{\varsigma} \in L^2(0, T; V'), \quad (3.8)$$

$$\beta \in W^{1,\infty}(0, T; L^2(\Gamma_3)) \cap \mathcal{Z}. \quad (3.9)$$

A quintuple  $(u, \sigma, \theta, \varsigma, \beta)$  which satisfies (2.35)–(2.40) is called a weak solution to the compliance contact Problem P. We conclude that under the stated assumptions, problem (2.4)–(2.16) has a unique weak solution satisfying (3.1)–(3.9).

We turn now to the proof of Theorem 3.2, which will be carried out in several steps and is based on arguments of nonlinear equations with monotone operators, a classical existence and uniqueness result on parabolic inequalities and fixed-point arguments. To this end, we assume in the following that (2.17)–(2.29) hold. Below,  $C$  denotes a generic positive constant which may depend on  $\Omega, \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{G}, \psi, \phi, p_\nu, p_\tau, \gamma_\nu, \gamma_\tau, L$  and  $T$  but does not depend on  $t$  nor on the rest of input data, and whose value may change from place to place. Moreover, for the sake of simplicity we suppress in what follows the explicit dependence of various functions on  $x \in \Omega \cup \Gamma$ .

Let  $\eta \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{V}')$  be given. In the first step we consider the following variational problem.

**Problem PV $_\eta$ .** Find the displacement field  $u_\eta : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ , such that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \rho \ddot{u}_\eta(t), v \rangle_{\mathcal{V}' \times \mathcal{V}} + (\mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}_\eta(t))), \varepsilon(v))_{\mathcal{H}} + \langle \eta(t), v \rangle_{\mathcal{V}' \times \mathcal{V}} &= \langle F(t), v \rangle_{\mathcal{V}' \times \mathcal{V}} \\ \forall v \in \mathcal{V}, \text{ a.e. } t \in (0, T), \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

$$u_\eta(0) = u_0, \quad \dot{u}_\eta(0) = w_0 \text{ in } \Omega. \quad (3.11)$$

**Lemma 3.3.** *For all  $\eta \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{V}')$ , there exists a unique solution  $u_\eta$  to the auxiliary problem PV $_\eta$  satisfying (3.1)–(3.3).*

*Proof.* Let us introduce the operator  $A : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}'$ ,

$$\langle Au, v \rangle_{\mathcal{V}' \times \mathcal{V}} = (\mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(u)), \varepsilon(v))_{\mathcal{H}}. \quad (3.12)$$

Therefore, (3.10) can be rewritten as follows

$$\rho \ddot{u}_\eta(t) + A(\dot{u}_\eta(t)) = F_\eta(t) \quad \text{on } \mathcal{V}' \text{ a.e. } t \in (0, T), \quad (3.13)$$

where

$$F_\eta(t) = F(t) - \eta(t) \in \mathcal{V}'.$$

It follows from (2.1), (3.12) and hypothesis (2.17) that  $A$  is bounded, semi-continuous and coercive on  $\mathcal{V}$ . We recall that by (2.31) we have  $F_\eta \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{V}')$ . Then by using classical arguments of functional analysis concerning parabolic equations [8, 24] we can easily prove the existence and uniqueness of  $w_\eta$  satisfying

$$w_\eta \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{V}) \cap \mathcal{C}^0(0, T; H), \quad (3.14)$$

$$\dot{w}_\eta \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{V}'), \quad (3.15)$$

$$\rho \dot{w}_\eta(t) + A(w_\eta(t)) = F_\eta(t) \quad \text{on } \mathcal{V}' \text{ a.e. } t \in (0, T), \quad (3.16)$$

$$w_\eta(0) = w_0. \quad (3.17)$$

Consider now the function  $u_\eta : (0, T) \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  defined by

$$u_\eta(t) = \int_0^t w_\eta(s) ds + u_0 \quad \forall t \in (0, T). \quad (3.18)$$

It follows from (3.16) and (3.17) that  $u_\eta$  is a solution of the equation (3.13) and it satisfies (3.1)–(3.3).  $\square$

In the second step we use the displacement field  $u_\eta$  obtained in Lemma 3.3 and we consider the following initial value problem.

**Problem  $PV_\beta$ .** Find the adhesion field  $\beta_\eta : [0, T] \rightarrow L^2(\Gamma_3)$  such that

$$\dot{\beta}_\eta(t) = -(\beta_\eta(t) [\gamma_\nu(R_\nu(u_{\eta\nu})(t))^2 + \gamma_\tau |R_\tau(u_{\eta\tau}(t))|^2] - \varepsilon_a)_+, \quad (3.19)$$

$$\beta_\eta(0) = \beta_0 \quad \text{in } \Omega. \quad (3.20)$$

**Lemma 3.4.** *There exists a unique solution  $\beta_\eta \in W^{1,\infty}(0, T; L^2(\Gamma_3)) \cap \mathcal{Z}$  to Problem  $PV_\beta$ .*

*Proof.* We use a version of the classical Cauchy–Lipschitz theorem given in [38, p. 60].  $\square$

**Problem  $PV_\lambda$ .** Find the temperature  $\theta_\lambda : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\langle \rho \dot{\theta}_\lambda(t), \omega \rangle_{V' \times V} + \mathbf{a}_0(\theta_\lambda(t), \omega) = \langle \lambda(t) + q(t), \omega \rangle_{V' \times V} \quad \forall \omega \in V, \text{ a.e. } t \in (0, T), \quad (3.21)$$

$$\theta_\lambda(0) = \theta_0 \quad \text{in } \Omega. \quad (3.22)$$

**Lemma 3.5.** *For all  $\lambda \in L^2(0, T; V')$ , there exists a unique solution  $\theta_\lambda$  to the auxiliary problem  $PV_\lambda$  satisfying (3.5) and (3.6).*

*Proof.* By an application of the Poincaré–Friedrichs inequality, we can find a constant  $\alpha' > 0$  such that

$$\int_\Omega |\nabla \zeta|^2 dx + \frac{\alpha}{k_0} \int_\Gamma |\zeta|^2 d\gamma \geq \alpha' \int_\Omega |\zeta|^2 dx \quad \forall \zeta \in V.$$

Thus, we obtain

$$\mathbf{a}_0(\zeta, \zeta) \geq C_1 \|\zeta\|_V^2 \quad \forall \zeta \in V, \quad (3.23)$$

where  $C_1 = k_0 \min(1, \alpha')/2$ , which implies that  $\mathbf{a}_0$  is  $V$ -elliptic. Consequently, based on classical arguments of functional analysis concerning parabolic equations, the variational equation (3.21) has a unique solution  $\theta_\lambda$  satisfies (3.5) and (3.6).  $\square$

**Problem  $PV_\mu$ .** Find the damage field  $\varsigma_\mu : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \rho \dot{\varsigma}_\mu(t), \xi - \varsigma_\mu(t) \rangle_{V' \times V} + \mathbf{a}_1(\varsigma_\mu(t), \xi - \varsigma_\mu(t)) \\ & \geq \langle \mu, \xi - \varsigma_\mu(t) \rangle_{V' \times V} \quad \forall \xi \in K, \text{ a.e. } t \in (0, T), \quad \varsigma_\mu(t) \in K, \end{aligned} \quad (3.24)$$

$$\varsigma_\mu(0) = \varsigma_0 \quad \text{in } \Omega. \quad (3.25)$$

**Lemma 3.6.** *For all  $\mu \in L^2(0, T; V')$ , there exists a unique solution  $\varsigma_\mu$  to the auxiliary problem  $PV_\mu$  satisfying (3.7)–(3.8).*

*Proof.* We know that the form  $\mathbf{a}_1$  is not  $V$ -elliptic. To solve this problem we introduce the functions

$$\tilde{\varsigma}_\mu(t) = e^{-k_1 t} \varsigma_\mu(t), \quad \tilde{\xi}(t) = e^{-k_1 t} \xi(t).$$

We remark that if  $\varsigma_\mu, \xi \in K$  then  $\tilde{\varsigma}_\mu, \tilde{\xi} \in K$ . Consequently, (3.24) is equivalent to the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \rho \dot{\tilde{\varsigma}}_\mu(t), \tilde{\xi} - \tilde{\varsigma}_\mu(t) \rangle_{V' \times V} + \mathbf{a}_1(\tilde{\varsigma}_\mu(t), \tilde{\xi} - \tilde{\varsigma}_\mu(t)) + k_1(\rho \tilde{\varsigma}_\mu, \tilde{\xi} - \tilde{\varsigma}_\mu(t))_{L^2(\Omega)} \\ & \geq \langle e^{-k_1 t} \mu, \tilde{\xi} - \tilde{\varsigma}_\mu(t) \rangle_{V' \times V} \quad \forall \tilde{\xi} \in K, \text{ a.e. } t \in (0, T), \quad \tilde{\varsigma}_\mu \in K. \end{aligned} \quad (3.26)$$

The fact that

$$\mathbf{a}_1(\tilde{\xi}, \tilde{\xi}) + k_1(\rho\tilde{\xi}, \tilde{\xi})_{L^2(\Omega)} \geq k_1 \min(\rho^*, 1) \|\tilde{\xi}\|_V^2 \quad \forall \tilde{\xi} \in V, \quad (3.27)$$

and using classical arguments of functional analysis concerning parabolic inequalities [8, 13], implies that (3.24) has a unique solution  $\tilde{\zeta}_\mu$  having the regularity (3.7) and (3.8).  $\square$

Let us consider now the auxiliary problem.

**Problem PV $_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}$ .** Find the stress field  $\sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu} : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{S}_n$  which is a solution of the problem

$$\sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}(t) = \mathcal{E}(\varepsilon(u_\eta(t))) + \int_0^t \mathcal{G}(\sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}(s), \varepsilon(u_\eta(s)), \theta_\lambda(s), \varsigma_\mu(s)) ds \quad \forall t \in [0, T]. \quad (3.28)$$

**Lemma 3.7.** *There exists a unique solution of Problem PV $_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}$  and it satisfies (3.4). Moreover, if  $u_{\eta_i}, \theta_{\lambda_i}, \varsigma_{\mu_i}$  and  $\sigma_{\eta_i, \lambda_i, \mu_i}$  represent the solutions of problems PV $_{\eta_i}$ , PV $_{\lambda_i}$ , PV $_{\mu_i}$  and PV $_{\eta_i, \lambda_i, \mu_i}$ , respectively, for  $i = 1, 2$ , then there exists  $C > 0$  such that*

$$\begin{aligned} \|\sigma_{\eta_1, \lambda_1, \mu_1}(t) - \sigma_{\eta_2, \lambda_2, \mu_2}(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 &\leq C(\|u_{\eta_1}(t) - u_{\eta_2}(t)\|_V^2 \\ &+ \int_0^t (\|u_{\eta_1}(s) - u_{\eta_2}(s)\|_V^2 + \|\theta_{\lambda_1}(s) - \theta_{\lambda_2}(s)\|_V^2 + \|\varsigma_{\mu_1}(s) - \varsigma_{\mu_2}(s)\|_V^2) ds). \end{aligned} \quad (3.29)$$

*Proof.* Let  $\Sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu} : L^2(0, T; \mathcal{H}) \rightarrow L^2(0, T; \mathcal{H})$  be the mapping given by

$$\Sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}\sigma(t) = \mathcal{E}(\varepsilon(u_\eta(t))) + \int_0^t \mathcal{G}(\sigma(s), \varepsilon(u_\eta(s)), \theta_\lambda(s), \varsigma_\mu(s)) ds. \quad (3.30)$$

Let  $\sigma_i \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{H})$ ,  $i = 1, 2$  and  $t_1 \in (0, T)$ .

Using hypothesis (2.19) and Hölder's inequality, we find

$$\|\Sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}\sigma_1(t_1) - \Sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}\sigma_2(t_1)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \leq L_G^2 T \int_0^{t_1} \|\sigma_1(s) - \sigma_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 ds. \quad (3.31)$$

By reapplication of mapping  $\Sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}$ , it yields

$$\|\Sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}^2\sigma_1(t_1) - \Sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}^2\sigma_2(t_1)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \leq L_G^4 T^2 \int_0^{t_1} \int_0^{t_2} \|\sigma_1(s) - \sigma_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 ds dt_2.$$

Reiterating this inequality  $m$  times leads to

$$\|\Sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}^m\sigma_1(t_1) - \Sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}^m\sigma_2(t_1)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \leq L_G^{2m} T^m \int_0^{t_1} \int_0^{t_2} \dots \int_0^{t_m} \|\sigma_1(s) - \sigma_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 ds dt_m \dots dt_2.$$

Integration on the time interval  $(0, T)$ , it follows that

$$\|\Sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}^m\sigma_1 - \Sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}^m\sigma_2\|_{L^2(0,T;\mathcal{H})}^2 \leq \frac{L_G^{2m} T^{2m}}{m!} \|\sigma_1 - \sigma_2\|_{L^2(0,T;\mathcal{H})}^2. \quad (3.32)$$

It follows from this inequality that for  $m$  large enough, a power  $m$  of the mapping  $\Sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}$  is a contraction on the space  $L^2(0, T; \mathcal{H})$  and, therefore, from the Banach fixed point theorem, there exists a unique element  $\sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu} \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{H})$  such that  $\Sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}\sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu} = \sigma_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}$ , which represents the unique solution of the problem PV $_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}$ . Moreover, if  $u_{\eta_i}, \theta_{\lambda_i}, \varsigma_{\mu_i}$  and  $\sigma_{\eta_i, \lambda_i, \mu_i}$  represent the solutions of the problems

$PV_{\eta_i}$ ,  $PV_{\lambda_i}$ ,  $PV_{\mu_i}$  and  $PV_{\eta_i, \lambda_i, \mu_i}$ , respectively, for  $i = 1, 2$ , then we use (2.1), (2.17)–(2.19) and Young's inequality to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\sigma_{\eta_1, \lambda_1, \mu_1}(t) - \sigma_{\eta_2, \lambda_2, \mu_2}(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \\ & \leq C \left( \|u_{\eta_1}(t) - u_{\eta_2}(t)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \int_0^t (\|\sigma_{\eta_1, \lambda_1, \mu_1}(s) - \sigma_{\eta_2, \lambda_2, \mu_2}(s)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \|u_{\eta_1}(s) - u_{\eta_2}(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\theta_{\lambda_1}(s) - \theta_{\lambda_2}(s)\|_V^2 + \|\varsigma_{\mu_1}(s) - \varsigma_{\mu_2}(s)\|_V^2) ds \right). \end{aligned}$$

Which permits us to obtain, using Gronwall's lemma, the inequality (3.29).

Second step. Let us consider the mapping

$$\Lambda : L^2(0, T; \mathcal{V}' \times V' \times V') \rightarrow L^2(0, T; \mathcal{V}' \times V' \times V'),$$

defined by

$$\Lambda(\eta(t), \lambda(t), \mu(t)) = (\Lambda^0(\eta(t), \lambda(t), \mu(t)), \Lambda^1(\eta(t), \lambda(t), \mu(t)), \Lambda^2(\eta(t), \lambda(t), \mu(t))), \quad (3.33)$$

where the mappings  $\Lambda^0$ ,  $\Lambda^1$  and  $\Lambda^2$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \Lambda^0(\eta(t), \lambda(t), \mu(t)), v \rangle_{\mathcal{V}' \times \mathcal{V}} = (\mathcal{E}(\varepsilon(u_\eta(t))), \varepsilon(v))_{\mathcal{H}} + j(\beta_\eta(t), u_\eta(t), v) \\ & + \left( \int_0^t \mathcal{G}(\sigma_{\eta, \lambda, \mu}(s), \varepsilon(u_\eta(s)), \theta_\lambda(s), \varsigma_\mu(s)) ds, \varepsilon(v) \right)_{\mathcal{H}} \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{V}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.34)$$

$$\Lambda^1(\eta(t), \lambda(t), \mu(t)) = \psi(\sigma_{\eta, \lambda, \mu}(t), \varepsilon(u_\eta(t)), \theta_\lambda(t), \varsigma_\mu(t)), \quad (3.35)$$

$$\Lambda^2(\eta(t), \lambda(t), \mu(t)) = \phi(\sigma_{\eta, \lambda, \mu}(t), \varepsilon(u_\eta(t)), \theta_\lambda(t), \varsigma_\mu(t)). \quad (3.36)$$

□

**Lemma 3.8.** *The mapping  $\Lambda$  has a fixed point*

$$(\eta^*, \lambda^*, \mu^*) \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{V}' \times V' \times V').$$

*Proof.* Let  $(\eta_1, \lambda_1, \mu_1), (\eta_2, \lambda_2, \mu_2) \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{V}' \times V' \times V')$ .

We use the notation  $u_{\eta_i} = u_i$ ,  $\dot{u}_{\eta_i} = \dot{u}_i$ ,  $\ddot{u}_{\eta_i} = \ddot{u}_i$ ,  $\beta_{\eta_i} = \beta_i$ ,  $\theta_{\lambda_i} = \theta_i$ ,  $\varsigma_{\mu_i} = \varsigma_i$  and  $\sigma_{\eta_i, \lambda_i, \mu_i} = \sigma_i$ , for  $i = 1, 2$ . Let us start by using (2.1), hypotheses (2.17)–(2.19), (2.21)–(2.23) and the definition of  $R_\eta$ ,  $R_\tau$  and Remark 3.1 we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Lambda^0(\eta_1(t), \lambda_1(t), \mu_1(t)) - \Lambda^0(\eta_2(t), \lambda_2(t), \mu_2(t))\|_{\mathcal{V}'}^2 \leq \|\mathcal{E}(\varepsilon(u_1(t))) - \mathcal{E}(\varepsilon(u_2(t)))\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 \\ & + \int_0^t \|\mathcal{G}(\sigma_1(s), \varepsilon(u_\eta(s)), \theta_1(s), \varsigma_1(s)) - \mathcal{G}(\sigma_2(s), \varepsilon(u_2(s)), \theta_2(s), \varsigma_2(s))\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 ds \\ & + C(\|p_\nu(u_{1\eta\nu}(t)) - p_\nu(u_{2\eta\nu}(t))\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)}^2) \\ & + C(\|\beta_1^2(t)R_\nu(u_{1\eta\nu}(t)) - \beta_2^2(t)R_\nu(u_{2\eta\nu}(t))\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)}^2) \\ & + C(\|p_\tau(\beta_1(t))R_\tau(u_{1\eta\tau}(t)) - p_\tau(\beta_2(t))R_\tau(u_{2\eta\tau}(t))\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)}^2), \end{aligned}$$

so we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Lambda^0(\eta_1(t), \lambda_1(t), \mu_1(t)) - \Lambda^0(\eta_2(t), \lambda_2(t), \mu_2(t))\|_{\mathcal{V}'}^2 \\ & \leq C \left( \int_0^t (\|\sigma_1(s) - \sigma_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 + \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\theta_1(s) - \theta_2(s)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \|\varsigma_1(s) - \varsigma_2(s)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2) ds + \|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\beta_1(t) - \beta_2(t)\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)}^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.37)$$

We use estimate (3.29) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Lambda^0(\eta_1(t), \lambda_1(t), \mu_1(t)) - \Lambda^0(\eta_2(t), \lambda_2(t), \mu_2(t))\|_{\mathcal{V}'}^2 \\ & \leq C \left( \int_0^t (\|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\theta_1(s) - \theta_2(s)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \|\varsigma_1(s) - \varsigma_2(s)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2) ds + \|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\beta_1(t) - \beta_2(t)\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)}^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.38)$$

From the Cauchy problem (3.19)–(3.20) we can write

$$\beta_i(t) = \beta_0 - \int_0^t (\beta_i(s) [\gamma_\nu(R_\nu(u_\nu(s)))^2 + \gamma_\tau |R_\tau(u_\tau(s))|^2] - \varepsilon_a)_+ ds,$$

and then

$$\begin{aligned} \|\beta_1(t) - \beta_2(t)\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)} & \leq C \int_0^t \|\beta_1(s)(R_\nu(u_{1\nu}(s)))^2 - \beta_2(s)(R_\nu(u_{2\nu}(s)))^2\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)} ds \\ & + C \int_0^t \|\beta_1(s)|R_\tau(u_{1\tau}(s))|^2 - \beta_2(s)|R_\tau(u_{2\tau}(s))|^2\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)} ds. \end{aligned}$$

Using the definition of  $R_\nu$  and  $R_\tau$  and writing  $\beta_1 = \beta_1 - \beta_2 + \beta_2$ , we get

$$\|\beta_1(t) - \beta_2(t)\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)} \leq C \left( \int_0^t \|\beta_1(s) - \beta_2(s)\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)} ds + \int_0^t \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)^d} ds \right).$$

Next, we apply Gronwall's inequality to deduce

$$\|\beta_1(t) - \beta_2(t)\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)} \leq C \int_0^t \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)^d} ds,$$

and from the relation (2.1) we obtain that

$$\|\beta_1(t) - \beta_2(t)\|_{L^2(\Gamma_3)}^2 \leq C \int_0^t \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 ds \quad (3.39)$$

holds. On the other hand, since  $u_i(t) = u_0 + \int_0^t \dot{u}_i(s) ds$ , we know that for a.e.  $t \in (0, T)$ ,

$$\|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|_{\mathcal{V}} \leq \int_0^t \|\dot{u}_1(s) - \dot{u}_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}} ds. \quad (3.40)$$

Applying Young's and Hölder's inequalities, (3.38) becomes, via (3.39) and (3.40)

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Lambda^0(\eta_1(t), \lambda_1(t), \mu_1(t)) - \Lambda^0(\eta_2(t), \lambda_2(t), \mu_2(t))\|_{\mathcal{V}'}^2 \\ & \leq C \left( \int_0^t (\|\dot{u}_1(s) - \dot{u}_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \|\theta_1(s) - \theta_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\varsigma_1(s) - \varsigma_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2) ds \right) \quad \text{a.e. } t \in (0, T). \end{aligned} \quad (3.41)$$

Furthermore, we find by taking the substitution  $\eta = \eta_1$ ,  $\eta = \eta_2$  in (3.10) and choosing  $v = \dot{u}_1 - \dot{u}_2$  as test function

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \rho(\ddot{u}_1(t) - \ddot{u}_2(t)) + A\dot{u}_1(t) - A\dot{u}_2(t), \dot{u}_1(t) - \dot{u}_2(t) \rangle_{\mathcal{V}' \times \mathcal{V}} \\ & = \langle \eta_2(t) - \eta_1(t), \dot{u}_1(t) - \dot{u}_2(t) \rangle_{\mathcal{V}' \times \mathcal{V}} \quad \text{a.e. } t \in (0, T). \end{aligned}$$

By virtue of (2.17) and (2.24), this equation becomes

$$\frac{(\rho^*)^2}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|\dot{u}_1(t) - \dot{u}_2(t)\|_H^2 + m_{\mathcal{A}} \|\dot{u}_1(t) - \dot{u}_2(t)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 \leq \|\eta_2(t) - \eta_1(t)\|_{\mathcal{V}'} \|\dot{u}_1(t) - \dot{u}_2(t)\|_{\mathcal{V}}.$$

Integrating this inequality over the interval time variable  $(0, t)$ , Young's inequality leads to

$$(\rho^*)^2 \|\dot{u}_1(t) - \dot{u}_2(t)\|_H^2 + m_{\mathcal{A}} \int_0^t \|\dot{u}_1(s) - \dot{u}_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 ds \leq \frac{2}{m_{\mathcal{A}}} \int_0^t \|\eta_1(s) - \eta_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}'}^2 ds.$$

Consequently,

$$\int_0^t \|\dot{u}_1(s) - \dot{u}_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 ds \leq C \int_0^t \|\eta_1(s) - \eta_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}'}^2 ds \quad \text{a.e. } t \in (0, T), \quad (3.42)$$

which also implies, using a variant of (3.40), that

$$\|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 \leq C \int_0^t \|\eta_1(s) - \eta_2(s)\|_{\mathcal{V}'}^2 ds \quad \text{a.e. } t \in (0, T). \quad (3.43)$$

Moreover, if we take the substitution  $\lambda = \lambda_1$ ,  $\lambda = \lambda_2$  in (3.21) and subtracting the two obtained equations, we deduce by choosing  $\omega = \theta_{\lambda_1} - \theta_{\lambda_2}$  as test function

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(\rho^*)^2}{2} \|\theta_1(t) - \theta_2(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + C_1 \int_0^t \|\theta_1(s) - \theta_2(s)\|_V^2 ds \\ & \leq \int_0^t \|\lambda_1(s) - \lambda_2(s)\|_{V'} \|\theta_1(s) - \theta_2(s)\|_V ds \quad \text{a.e. } t \in (0, T). \end{aligned}$$

Employing Hölder's and Young's inequalities, we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\theta_{\lambda_1}(t) - \theta_{\lambda_2}(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \int_0^t \|\theta_{\lambda_1}(s) - \theta_{\lambda_2}(s)\|_V^2 ds \\ & \leq C \int_0^t \|\lambda_1(s) - \lambda_2(s)\|_{V'}^2 ds \quad \text{a.e. } t \in (0, T). \end{aligned} \quad (3.44)$$

Substituting now  $\{\mu = \mu_1, \xi = \tilde{\zeta}_{\mu_1}\}$ ,  $\{\mu = \mu_2, \xi = \tilde{\zeta}_{\mu_2}\}$  in (3.26) and subtracting the two inequalities, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\tilde{\zeta}_1(t) - \tilde{\zeta}_2(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \int_0^t \|\tilde{\zeta}_1(s) - \tilde{\zeta}_2(s)\|_V^2 ds \\ & \leq C \int_0^t \|e^{-k_1 t}(\mu_1(s) - \mu_2(s))\|_{V'}^2 ds \quad \text{a.e. } t \in (0, T), \end{aligned}$$

from which also follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\varsigma_1(t) - \varsigma_2(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \int_0^t \|\varsigma_1(s) - \varsigma_2(s)\|_V^2 ds \\ & \leq C \int_0^t \|\mu_1(s) - \mu_2(s)\|_{V'}^2 ds \quad \text{a.e. } t \in (0, T). \end{aligned} \quad (3.45)$$

We can infer, using (3.41)–(3.45), that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Lambda^0(\eta_1(t), \lambda_1(t), \mu_1(t)) - \Lambda^0(\eta_2(t), \lambda_2(t), \mu_2(t))\|_{\mathcal{V}'}^2 \\ & \leq C(\|\eta_1(t) - \eta_2(t)\|_{\mathcal{V}'}^2 + \|\lambda_1(t) - \lambda_2(t)\|_{V'}^2 + \|\mu_1(t) - \mu_2(t)\|_{V'}^2). \end{aligned} \quad (3.46)$$

From hypothesis (2.20), (3.29) and (2.21) it follows

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Lambda^1(\eta_1(t), \lambda_1(t), \mu_1(t)) - \Lambda^1(\eta_2(t), \lambda_2(t), \mu_2(t))\|_{\mathcal{V}'}^2 \\ & = \|\psi(\sigma_1(t), \varepsilon(u_1(t)), \theta_1(t), \varsigma_1(t)) - \psi(\sigma_2(t), \varepsilon(u_2(t)), \theta_2(t), \varsigma_2(t))\|_{\mathcal{V}'}^2 \\ & \leq C(\|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\theta_1(t) - \theta_2(t)\|_V^2 + \|\varsigma_1(t) - \varsigma_2(t)\|_V^2) \quad \text{a.e. } t \in (0, T). \end{aligned}$$

This permits us to deduce, via (3.42), (3.44) and (3.45), that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Lambda^1(\eta_1(t), \lambda_1(t), \mu_1(t)) - \Lambda^1(\eta_2(t), \lambda_2(t), \mu_2(t))\|_{V'}^2 \\ & \leq C(\|\eta_1(t) - \eta_2(t)\|_{V'}^2 + \|\lambda_1(t) - \lambda_2(t)\|_{V'}^2 + \|\mu_1(t) - \mu_2(t)\|_{V'}^2). \end{aligned} \quad (3.47)$$

Similarly, using (3.29), (3.43), (3.44) and (3.45), we obtain the following estimate for  $\Lambda^2$

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Lambda^2(\eta_1(t), \lambda_1(t), \mu_1(t)) - \Lambda^2(\eta_2(t), \lambda_2(t), \mu_2(t))\|_{V'}^2 \\ & = \|\phi(\sigma_1(t), \varepsilon(u_1(t)), \theta_1(t), \varsigma_1(t)) - \phi(\sigma_2(t), \varepsilon(u_2(t)), \theta_2(t), \varsigma_2(t))\|_{V'}^2 \\ & \leq C(\|\eta_1(t) - \eta_2(t)\|_{V'}^2 + \|\lambda_1(t) - \lambda_2(t)\|_{V'}^2 + \|\mu_1(t) - \mu_2(t)\|_{V'}^2). \end{aligned} \quad (3.48)$$

From (3.46), (3.47) and (3.48), we conclude that there exists a positive constant  $C > 0$  verifying

$$\|\Lambda(\eta_1, \lambda_1, \mu_1) - \Lambda(\eta_2, \lambda_2, \mu_2)\|_{V' \times V' \times V'}^2 \leq C\|(\eta_1 - \eta_2, \lambda_1 - \lambda_2, \mu_1 - \mu_2)\|_{V' \times V' \times V'}^2. \quad (3.49)$$

We generalize this procedure by recurrence on  $m$ . Then we obtain the formula

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Lambda^m(\eta_1, \lambda_1, \mu_1) - \Lambda^m(\eta_2, \lambda_2, \mu_2)\|_{L^2(0, T; V' \times V' \times V')}^2 \\ & \leq \frac{C^m T^m}{m!} \|(\eta_1 - \eta_2, \lambda_1 - \lambda_2, \mu_1 - \mu_2)\|_{L^2(0, T; V' \times V' \times V')}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (3.50)$$

Thus, for  $m$  sufficiently large,  $\Lambda^m$  is a contraction on  $L^2(0, T; V' \times V' \times V')$ . Hence, Banach's fixed point theorem shows that  $\Lambda$  admits a unique fixed point  $(\eta^*, \lambda^*, \mu^*) \in L^2(0, T; V' \times V' \times V')$ .  $\square$

Now, we have all the ingredients to prove Theorem (3.2).

*Proof.* Let  $(\eta^*, \lambda^*, \mu^*) \in L^2(0, T; V' \times V' \times V')$  be the fixed point of  $\Lambda$  defined by (3.33)–(3.36) and denote by

$$(a) \ u = u_{\eta^*}, \quad (b) \ \theta = \theta_{\lambda^*}, \quad (c) \ \varsigma = \varsigma_{\mu^*}, \quad (3.51)$$

$$(a) \ \sigma = \mathcal{A}\varepsilon(\dot{u}) + \sigma_{\eta^* \lambda^* \mu^*}, \quad (b) \ \beta = \beta_{\eta^*}. \quad (3.52)$$

We prove that  $(u, \sigma, \theta, \varsigma, \beta)$  satisfies (2.35)–(2.40) and (3.1)–(3.9). Indeed, we write (3.28) for  $\eta = \eta^*$ ,  $\lambda = \lambda^*$  and  $\mu = \mu^*$  using (3.51) and (3.52)(a) to obtain that (2.35) is satisfied. Now we consider (3.10) for  $\eta = \eta^*$  and using (3.51)(a) to find

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \rho \ddot{u}, v \rangle_{V' \times V} + (\mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(t))), \varepsilon(v))_{\mathcal{H}} + \langle \eta^*(t), v \rangle_{V' \times V} = \langle F(t), v \rangle_{V' \times V} \\ & \quad \forall v \in V, \text{ a.e. } t \in (0, T). \end{aligned} \quad (3.53)$$

Equalities  $\Lambda^1(\eta^*, \lambda^*, \mu^*) = \eta^*$ ,  $\Lambda^2(\eta^*, \lambda^*, \mu^*) = \lambda^*$  and  $\Lambda^2(\eta^*, \lambda^*, \mu^*) = \mu^*$  combined with (3.34)–(3.36), (3.51) and (3.52) show that

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \eta^*(t), v \rangle_{V' \times V} = (\mathcal{E}(\varepsilon(u(t))), \varepsilon(v))_{\mathcal{H}} + j(\beta(t), u(t), v) \\ & \quad + \left( \int_0^t \mathcal{G}(\sigma(s) - \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(s))), \varepsilon(u(s)), \varsigma(s)) ds, \varepsilon(v) \right)_{\mathcal{H}} \quad \forall v \in V, \end{aligned} \quad (3.54)$$

$$\lambda^*(t) = \psi(\sigma(t) - \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(t))), \varepsilon(u(t)), \theta(t), \varsigma(t)), \quad (3.55)$$

$$\mu^*(t) = \phi(\sigma(t) - \mathcal{A}(\varepsilon(\dot{u}(t))), \varepsilon(u(t)), \theta(t), \varsigma(t)). \quad (3.56)$$

Now we substitute (3.54) in (3.53) and use (2.35) to see that (2.36) is satisfied. We write (3.21) for  $\lambda = \lambda^*$  and use (3.51)(b) and (3.55) to find that (2.37) is satisfied, also we write (3.23) for  $\mu = \mu^*$  and using (3.51)(c) and (3.56) to find that (2.38) is satisfied. We consider now (3.19) for  $\eta = \eta^*$  and use (3.51)(a) and (3.52)(b) to obtain that (2.39) is satisfied. Next (2.40) and the regularities (3.1)–(3.3), (3.5)–(3.9) follow lemmas (3.3), (3.4), (3.5) and (3.6). The regularity (3.4) follows from lemma (3.7). The uniqueness part of theorem (3.2) is a consequence of the uniqueness of the fixed point of the

operator  $\Lambda$  defined (3.34)–(3.36) and the unique solvability of the problems  $PV_\eta$ ,  $PV_\beta$ ,  $PV_\lambda$ ,  $PV_\mu$  and  $PV_{\eta,\lambda,\mu}$  which completes the proof.  $\square$

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